CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1.   A method for implementing an application on a client computer

5   system, said method comprising the computer-implemented steps of:

a) receiving at said client computer system a plurality of text files wherein each of said text files defines a component of said application;

b) executing a program resident on said client computer system, wherein said program comprises instructions for using a combination of said text files to

10   create said application; and

c) creating said application on said client computer system from said text files executing in combination according to said program.

2.   The method as recited in Claim 1 wherein said text files use an

15   Extensible Markup Language (XML) syntax.

3.   The method as recited in Claim 1 wherein said client computer system is communicatively coupled to a server computer system in a computer system network, wherein said server system provides a central source for

20   managing and distributing applications and modifications to applications.

4.   The method as recited in Claim 3 wherein said plurality of text files received in said step a) are received from said server computer system.

5.   The method as recited in Claim 3 comprising the step of:

executing said application on said client computer system in an

asynchronous mode, wherein said asynchronous mode comprises:

5   i) sending a request from said client computer system to said

server computer system; and

                   ii) executing said application in parallel with and while waiting for

a response to said request.

10   6.   The method as recited in Claim 3 comprising the step of:

executing said application on said client computer system in a

connectionless mode in the absence of communication between said client

computer system and said server computer system.

15   7.   The method as recited in Claim 1 wherein said plurality of text files

received in said step a) are particular to said client computer system.

8.   The method as recited in Claim 1 comprising the step of:

receiving a new text file defining a component of said application,

20   wherein said new text file is used in lieu of a previously received text file to

modify said application.

9.   The method as recited in Claim 1 wherein said component of said application pertains to a graphical user interface.

10.   The method as recited in Claim 1 wherein said component of said

5   application pertains to communication preferences.

11.   The method as recited in Claim 1 wherein said component of said application pertains to data management.

10   12.   The method as recited in Claim 1 wherein said component of said application pertains to logic used with said application.

13.   A computer system comprising:

a bus;

15   a computer-readable memory unit coupled to said bus; and

a processor coupled to said bus, said processor for executing a method for implementing an application comprising the steps of:

a) receiving at said computer system a plurality of text files wherein each of said text files defines a component of said application;

20   b) executing a program resident on said computer system, wherein said program comprises instructions for using a combination of said text files to create said application; and

c) creating said application on said computer system from said text files

executing in combination according to said program.

14.   The computer system of Claim 13 wherein said text files use an

5   Extensible Markup Language (XML) syntax.

15.   The computer system of Claim 13 wherein said computer system

is communicatively coupled to a server computer system in a computer system

network, wherein said server system provides a central source for managing

10   and distributing applications and modifications to applications.

16.   The computer system of Claim 15 wherein said plurality of text files

received in said step a) of said method are received from said server computer

system.

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17.   The computer system of Claim 15 wherein said method comprises

the step of:

executing said application on said client computer system in an

asynchronous mode, wherein said asynchronous mode comprises:

20   i) sending a request from said client computer system to said

server computer system; and

ii) executing said application in parallel with and while waiting for

a response to said request.

18. The computer system of Claim 15 wherein said method comprises the step of:

executing said application on said client computer system in a

5 connectionless mode in the absence of communication between said client computer system and said server computer system.

19. The computer system of Claim 13 wherein said plurality of text files received in said step a) of said method are particular to said computer system.

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20. The computer system of Claim 13 wherein said method comprises the step of:

receiving a new text file defining a component of said application, wherein said new text file is used in lieu of a previously received text file to

15 modify said application.

21. The computer system of Claim 13 wherein said component of said application pertains to a graphical user interface.

20 22. The computer system of Claim 13 wherein said component of said application pertains to communication preferences.

23. The computer system of Claim 13 wherein said component of said application pertains to data management.

24. The computer system of Claim 13 wherein said component of said
5   application pertains to logic used with said application.

25. A computer-usable medium having computer-readable program code embodied therein for causing a computer system to perform the steps of:

a) installing on said computer system a plurality of text files wherein
10 each of said text files defines a component of said application;

b) installing a program on said computer system, wherein said program comprises instructions for using a combination of said text files to create said application; and

c) creating said application on said computer system from said text files
15 executing in combination according to said program.

26. The computer-usable medium of Claim 25 wherein said text files use an Extensible Markup Language (XML) syntax.

20 27. The computer-usable medium of Claim 25 wherein said computer system is communicatively coupled to a server computer system in a computer system network, wherein said server system provides a central source device for managing and distributing applications and modifications to applications.

28. The computer-usable medium of Claim 27 wherein said plurality of text files installed in said step a) are received from said server computer system.

5   29. The computer-usable medium of Claim 27 wherein said computer-readable program code embodied therein causes a computer system to perform the step of:

executing said application on said computer system in an asynchronous mode, wherein said asynchronous mode comprises:

10   i) sending a request from said computer system to said server computer system; and

ii) executing said application in parallel with and while waiting for a response to said request.

15   30. The computer-usable medium of Claim 27 wherein said computer-readable program code embodied therein causes a computer system to perform the step of:

executing said application on said computer system in a connectionless mode in the absence of communication between said computer system and

20 said server computer system.

31. The computer-usable medium of Claim 25 wherein said plurality of text files installed in said step a) are particular to said computer system.

32.   The computer-usable medium of Claim 31 wherein said computer-readable program code embodied therein causes a computer system to perform the step of:

5   installing on said computer system a new text file defining a component of said application, wherein said new text file is used in lieu of a previously received text file to modify said application.

33.   The computer-usable medium of Claim 25 wherein said

10   component of said application pertains to a graphical user interface.

34.   The computer-usable medium of Claim 25 wherein said component of said application pertains to communication preferences.

15   35.   The computer-usable medium of Claim 25 wherein said component of said application pertains to data management.

36.   The computer-usable medium of Claim 25 wherein said component of said application pertains to logic used with said application.